

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 54-96 are pending in the Application. Claims 56 and 71 remain unchanged.

Claims 54-55, 57-70, and 72-88 are currently amended, without acquiescence in cited basis for rejection or prejudice to pursue in a related application. Claims 89-96 are new. A complete listing of the current pending claims is provided below and supersedes all previous claim listing(s.) No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-53 (cancelled)

54. (Currently Amended) A method of providing remotely located circuit design resources, the method comprising:

connecting one or more a plurality of user nodes to a portal over a distributed electronic network;

connecting one or more a plurality of supplier nodes to the portal over the distributed electronic network;

making available one or more a plurality of circuit design resources through the portal, at least one of the one or more plurality of circuit design resources being located on in one of the one or more plurality of user and supplier nodes;

receiving one or more requests from at least one of the one or more plurality of user nodes for access to the one or more of the plurality of circuit design resources available through the portal and not located on the at least one or more user node; and

automatically responding to the one or more requests from the at least one or more user nodes; node and

maintaining profile data of one or more users or suppliers.

55. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 54, wherein the one or more plurality of circuit design resources comprise component data, the component data being stored in one or more databases located on the portal and/or on at least one of the one or more of the plurality of user and supplier nodes.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 55, wherein the component data comprises component data sheets, timing models, application notes, simulation models, and/or signal integrity models.

57. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 54, wherein the one or more plurality of circuit design resources comprise one or more a plurality of virtual circuit blocks, each of the one or more

plurality of virtual component blocks being stored in one or more databases located on the portal and/or on at least one of the one or more of the plurality of user and supplier nodes.

58. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 54, wherein the one or more plurality of circuit design resources comprise one or more a plurality of electronic design automation tools.

59. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 54, wherein the one or more plurality of circuit design resources comprise a ranked listing of suppliers of integrated circuit fabrication services.

60. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 54, wherein the one or more plurality of circuit design resources comprise information on expert design services.

61. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 54, wherein in which the step of automatically responding to the one or more requests from the at least one or more user nodes node comprises:

determining whether each of the requested one or more requested circuit design resources is are located on the portal;

acquiring each of the requested one or more requested circuit design resources not located on the portal from at least one of the one or more of the plurality of user and supplier nodes; and

transmitting the requested one or more requested circuit design resources to the at least one or more user nodes node.

62. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 54, wherein in which automatically responding to the one or more requests from the at least one or more user nodes node comprises:

determining whether each of the requested one or more requested circuit design resources is are located on the portal; and

providing information to the at least one or more user nodes node on how to access each of the requested one or more requested circuit design resources not located on the portal.

63. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 62, wherein in which the information provided to the at least one or more user nodes node comprises linking information to at least one or more of the one or more plurality of user and supplier nodes where the requested one or more requested circuit design resources are located.

64. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 54, wherein in which the step of automatically responding to the one or more requests from the at least one or more user nodes node comprises:

determining whether each of the requested one or more requested circuit design resources is are located on the portal; and

sending information to the ~~at least one or more user nodes node~~ on how to obtain each of the ~~requested~~ one or more ~~requested~~ circuit design resources not located on the portal.

65. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 64, ~~wherein in which~~ the information sent to the ~~at least one or more user nodes node~~ comprises a username and password.

66. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 54, wherein automatically responding to the one or more requests from the ~~at least one or more user nodes node~~ comprises:

determining whether each of the one or more requests from the ~~at least one or more user nodes node~~ can be fulfilled at the portal; and

forwarding each of the one or more requests that cannot be fulfilled at the portal to ~~at least one or more of the one or more plurality of~~ user and supplier nodes.

67. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 54, further comprising:

maintaining prior usage information relating to the one or more requests received from ~~the at least one or more users user node~~ at the portal.

68. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 54, further comprising:

maintaining profile data ~~of one or more users or suppliers on each of the plurality of user and supplier nodes~~ at the portal.

69. (Currently Amended) A computer program product that includes a computer readable medium, the computer readable medium comprising instructions which, when executed by a processor, causes the processor to execute a process for providing remotely located circuit design resources, the process comprising:

connecting ~~one or more a plurality of~~ user nodes to a portal over a distributed electronic network;

connecting ~~one or more a plurality of~~ supplier nodes to the portal over the distributed electronic network;

making available ~~one or more a plurality of~~ circuit design resources through the portal, at least one of the ~~one or more plurality of~~ circuit design resources being located ~~on in~~ one of the ~~one or more plurality of~~ user and supplier nodes;

receiving one or more requests from at least one of the ~~one or more plurality of~~ user nodes for access to ~~the one or more of the plurality of~~ circuit design resources available through the portal and not located on the ~~at least one or more user nodes~~; and

automatically responding to the one or more requests from the ~~at least one or more user node~~,
and

maintaining profile data of one or more users or suppliers.

70. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 69, ~~wherein in which the one or more plurality of circuit design resources comprise component data, the component data being stored in one or more databases located on the portal and/or on at least one of the one or more of the plurality of user and supplier nodes.~~

71. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 69, wherein the plurality of circuit design resources comprise a plurality of virtual circuit blocks, each of the plurality of virtual component blocks being stored in one or more databases located on the portal and/or on one or more of the plurality of user and supplier nodes.

72. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 69, ~~wherein in which the one or more plurality of circuit design resources comprise one or more a plurality of electronic design automation tools.~~

73. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 69, ~~wherein in which the step of automatically responding to the one or more requests from the at least one or more user nodes node comprises:~~

determining whether each of the requested one or more requested-circuit design resources is are located on the portal;

acquiring each of the requested one or more requested-circuit design resources not located on the portal from ~~at least one or more of the one or more plurality of user and supplier nodes; and~~

transmitting the requested one or more requested-circuit design resources to the at least one of the one or more user nodes node.

74. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 69, ~~wherein in which the step of automatically responding to the one or more requests from the at least one or more user nodes node comprises:~~

determining whether each of the requested one or more requested-circuit design resources is are located on the portal; and

providing information to the at least one or more user nodes node on how to access each of the requested one or more requested-circuit design resources not located on the portal.

75. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 74, ~~wherein in which the~~ information provided to the ~~at least one or more user nodes node~~ comprises linking information to ~~at least~~ one ~~or more~~ of the one or more plurality of user and supplier nodes where the requested one or more ~~requested~~ circuit design resources are located.

76. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 69, ~~wherein automatically~~ responding to the one or more requests from the ~~at least one or more user nodes node~~ comprises:

determining whether each of the requested one or more ~~requested~~ circuit design resources is are located on the portal; and

sending information to the ~~at least one or more user nodes node~~ on how to obtain each of the requested one or more ~~requested~~ circuit design resources not located on the portal.

77. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 69, ~~wherein in which the step of~~ automatically responding to the one or more requests from the ~~at least one or more user nodes node~~ comprises:

determining whether each of the one or more requests from the ~~at least one or more~~ user node can be fulfilled at the portal; and

forwarding each of the one or more requests that cannot be fulfilled at the portal to ~~at least one or more~~ of the one or more plurality of user and supplier nodes.

78. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of claim 69, wherein the process further comprises:

maintaining prior usage information relating to the one or more requests received from the ~~at least one or more user nodes node~~ at the portal.

79. (Currently Amended) A system for providing remotely located circuit design resources, the system comprising:

means for connecting one or more a plurality of user nodes to a portal over a distributed electronic network;

means for connecting one or more a plurality of supplier nodes to the portal over the distributed electronic network;

means for making available one or more a plurality of circuit design resources through the portal, at least one of the one or more plurality of circuit design resources being located on in one of the one or more plurality of user and supplier nodes;

means for receiving one or more requests from at least one of the one or more plurality of user nodes for access to the one or more of the plurality of circuit design resources available through the portal and not located on the at least one or more user node; and
means for automatically responding to the one or more requests from the at least one or more user nodes; node; and
means for maintaining profile data of one or more users or suppliers.

80. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 79, wherein in which the plurality of one or more circuit design resources comprise component data, the component data being stored in one or more databases located on the portal and/or on at least one of the one or more of the plurality of user and supplier nodes.

81. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 79, wherein in which the plurality of one or more circuit design resources comprise a plurality of one or more virtual circuit blocks, each of the one or more plurality of virtual component blocks being stored in one or more databases located on the portal and/or on at least one of the one or more of the plurality of user and supplier nodes.

82. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 79, wherein in which the plurality of one or more circuit design resources comprise one or more a plurality of electronic design automation tools.

83. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 79, wherein in which the means for automatically responding to the one or more requests from the at least one user node comprises:

means for determining whether each of the requested one or more requested circuit design resources is are located on the portal;

means for acquiring each of the requested one or more requested circuit design resources not located on the portal from at least one of the one or more of the plurality of user and supplier nodes; and

means for transmitting the requested one or more requested circuit design resources to the at least one or more user nodes node.

84. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 79, wherein in which automatically responding to the one or more requests from the at least one or more user nodes node comprises:

means for determining whether each of the requested one or more requested circuit design resources is are located on the portal; and

means for providing information to the at least one or more user nodes node on how to access each of the requested one or more requested-circuit design resources not located on the portal.

85. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 84, wherein in which the information provided to the at least one or more user nodes node comprises linking information to at least one of the one or more of the plurality of user and supplier nodes where the requested one or more requested-circuit design resources are located.

86. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 79, wherein in which automatically responding to the one or more requests from the at least one or more user nodes node comprises:

means for determining whether each of the requested one or more requested-circuit design resources is are located on the portal; and

means for sending information to the at least one or more user nodes node on how to obtain each of the requested one or more requested-circuit design resources not located on the portal.

87. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 79, wherein in which the means for automatically responding to the one or more requests from the at least one or more user nodes node comprises:

means for determining whether each of the one or more requests from the at least one or more user nodes node can be fulfilled at the portal; and

means for forwarding each of the one or more requests that cannot be fulfilled at the portal to at least one of the one or more of the plurality of user and supplier nodes.

88. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 79, wherein the process further comprising comprises:
means for maintaining prior usage information relating to the one or more requests received from the at least one or more user nodes node at the portal.

89. (New) The method of claim 54 further comprising:

ranking the one or more circuit design resources; and

presenting the ranked plurality of circuit design resources to the one or more user nodes.

90. (New) The method of claim 89, in which the step of ranking the one or more circuit design resources is performed by the portal.

91. (New) The computer program product of claim 69, in which the process for providing remotely located circuit design resources further comprises maintaining profile data of one or more users or suppliers at the portal.

92. (New) The computer program product of claim 69, in which the process for providing remotely located circuit design resources further comprises:

ranking the one or more circuit design resources; and

presenting the ranked plurality of circuit design resources to the one or more user nodes.

93. (New) The computer program product of claim 92, in which the step of ranking the one or more circuit design resources is performed by the portal.

94. (New) The system of claim 79, further comprising means for maintaining profile data of one or more users or suppliers at the portal.

95. (New) The system of claim 79 further comprising:

means for ranking the one or more circuit design resources; and

means for presenting the ranked plurality of circuit design resources to the one or more user nodes.

96. (New) The system of claim 95, in which the means for ranking the one or more circuit design resources constitute part of the portal.